THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 774 *Tuesday, May 25, 1824.* *Price 1d.*

Drury Lane Theatre.

THE *Merry Wives of Windsor* was performed last night, to a numerous and respectable audience. Mr. DOWTON played *Sir John Falstaff* with his accustomed excellence, and was loudly applauded in many of the principal scenes, particularly in describing his sufferings in the buck-basket to *Master Brook*. Mr. DOWTON has greatly distinguished himself as the representative of the jolly Knight, from his rich flow of humor, and the pleasantness of his voice and manner; qualities that few performers possess in an equal degree, and the requisites for which render the character one of the most arduous to play effectively, in the whole range of the drama. Messrs. HARLEY and TERRY played *Masters Slender* and *Ford* with good effect; the other characters were well sustained. The vocal department was, as usual, admirably supported by Miss STEPHENS and Madame VESTRIS, who were severally encored, and much applauded, particularly the former in the favorite air of "*When the sun.*"

The Easter Spectacle of *Zoroaster* followed, and concluded the evening's entertainments.

Covent Garden Theatre.

THERE was an excellent house last night, to see *King Henry the Fourth—Part I.* and *Clari.* In the former, the *Falstaff* of Mr. C. KEMBLE, obtained great applause; and the *Hotspur* of Mr. YOUNG, likewise shared in the usual demonstrations of favor which that distinguished actor can always command by his great talents. Mr. YOUNG is, indeed, a singular performer:—he is *naturally* a *comedian;* and yet is he calculated to fill with eminent effect the leading characters of tragedy. Mr. KEMBLE, again, is a complete comedian—tragedy rarely affords him the full field for his natural capabilities; but he can confer on some tragic characters a considerable portion of effect; whilst in a certain line of comedy—the *fine gentleman* for instance, or the *romantic lover*—he stands unrivalled on the British stage. It is truly a delightful thing to see an actor in his proper line, and yet Mr. C. KEMBLE was last night *out* of his *proper line*, and still amused in a high degree. Who, then, would quarrel with him for stepping out of his usual course to shew, that *light o'foot* as he can be in some characters, he is yet capable of ponderously treading, and breath-

Sir Sir

lessly uttering the humors of *Jack Falstaff*! It is really refreshing to witness this representation :—it is something *new*, to see CHARLES KEMBLE—the *Romeo*, the *Benedick*, the *Charles Surface*, the gay *Lothario*, playing the part of the earth-larding *Jack Falstaff!*

In *Clari* the charming Miss M. TREE acted and sung with her accustomed sweetness. Her song of "*Home, sweet home,*" is one of the most touching pieces of melody ever heard. Every note vibrates from the ear to the heart; and we cannot but feel that the fair vocalist is herself animated by the endearing sentiment. Mr. FAWCETT gave to the heart-broken Father all the peculiar pathos which he first evinced in this character.

MR. MATHEWS's Entertainment at the English Opera-House, continues to be one of the most fashionable and popular points of attraction. His subject, and the humorous and ever-varying manner in which he treats it, affords a species of amusement which blends the rational and the ridiculous in a manner that prompts excessive mirth, without permitting common-sense to be lost sight of. Every class appears to understand and enjoy his serious or his comic touches; and all who leave him are but the heralds of his enlivening powers.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The performances of *Sharp and Flat, The Floating Beacon*, a *Divertisement*, and *Love and Laudanum*, are to be repeated this evening.

COBURG.—This Theatre shares very fairly in the attentions of the public. The present pieces are well calculated to interest and amuse.

Davis's Amphitheatre continues to be crowded by the curious, who are anxious not only to see the admirably represented *Battle of Waterloo*, but, also, the astonishing horsemanship of DUCROW.

The *Surrey Theatre*, presents its novelties, and attracts very considerably. The pieces of to-night are *Zeluca, The Advantages of Lying*, with *Hate; or, the Cataract of the Mountain.*

Mr. MUNDEN, be it observed, plays *Sir Peter Teazle* this evening for the LAST time. His *Benefit* and *Leave-Taking*, is to be on next Monday.

The Proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, is making great preparations for opening the campaign. In addition to some old favourites from the two Winter Theatres, and amongst them the inimitable LISTON; the Manager has imported some new stars.

It is said that Drury Lane Theatre will close about the 30th of June. The period when Covent Garden Theatre will terminate its *winter* campaign is not yet determined;—possibly in the *dog-days*.

☞ IT is respectfully suggested to our Friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by an imitation of this Paper.

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Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening the Comedy of

School for Scandal.

Sir Peter Teazle, Mr MUNDEN,
Sir Oliver Surface, Mr DOWTON,
Rowley, Mr POWELL, Moses, Mr KNIGHT,
Sir Benjamin Backbite, Mr BROWNE,
Joseph Surface, Mr ARCHER, Trip, Mr PENLEY
Charles Surface, Mr ELLISTON,
Crabtree, Mr TERRY, Careless, Mr MERCER,
Snake, Mr THOMPSON, William, Mr WEBSTER
Sir Harry, (with a Song) Mr GIBBON,
Sir Toby, Mr RANDALL, John, Mr POVEY,
Lady Teazle, Mrs W. WEST,
Lady Sneerwell, Mrs KNIGHT, Betty, Mrs Webster
Mrs Candour, Mrs ORGER,
Maria, Miss SMITHSON,

After which, a new Ballet called, The

Spanish Gallants.

The Principal Dances by
Mr & Mrs OSCAR BYRNE,
Mr & Mrs NOBLE,

After which, the Farce of

Love, Law, & Physic.

Doctor Camphor, Mr J. BARNES,
Flexible, Mr HARLEY,
Lubin Log, Mr LISTON, Andrew, Mr KNIGHT,
Captain Danvers, Mr PENLEY,
John Brown, Mr HUGHES, Waiter, Mr POVEY,
Coachman, Mr W. H. WILLIAMS,
Laura, Miss CUBITT,
Mrs Hillary, Mrs ORGER, Maid, Miss GREEN,

To-morrow, The Hypocrite, The Liar, & My Grandmother.

Theatre Royal, Codent Garden.

This Evening, the Comedy of

Pride shall have a Fall.

Stefano, Mr EGERTON, Torrento, Mr JONES,
Count Ventoso, Mr W. FARREN,

Lorenzo, a Captain,	*Sicilian Hussars.*	Mr COOPER,
Col. Pistrucci,		Mr ABBOTT,
Major O'Shannon,		Mr CONNOR,
Cornet Count Carmine		Mr YATES,

Spado, Mr BLANCHARD,
Jailor, Mr TAYLOR, Lazaro, Mr BARNES,
Pisanio, Mr PYNE, Civil Officer, Mr HENRY,
Serenaders, Messrs. Pyne, J. Isaacs, Longhurst, &c.
Victoria, Miss HAMMERSLEY,
Countess Ventoso, Mrs DAVENPORT,
Leonora, Miss LOVE.
The EPILOGUE by Mr YATES,

After which, the Musical Entertainment, called,

No Song, No Supper.

Endless, Mr MEADOWS,
Frederick, Mr PYNE, Crop, Mr TAYLOR,
Robin, Mr T. P. COOKE,
Thomas, Mr MEARS, William, Mr J. ISAACS,
Louisa, Miss BEAUMONT,
Nelly, Mrs BOYLE, Dorothy, Miss LOVE,
Margareita, Miss M. TREE.

To-morrow, The Honey Moon, and Madame PASTA will sing a celebrated Scena and Air, with the Marriage of Figaro, for the Benefit of Mr. YOUNG.